

The State Chronicle

BY CHRONICLE PUBLISHING CO.
Every Morning Except Monday.

THE CASH PRICE OF CHRONICLE
is \$6.00 per year; \$3.00 for 6 months;
\$1.50 for 3 months.

THE BUSINESS OFFICE and Editorial
Rooms of the CHRONICLE are on the
second floor of No. 215, Fayetteville St.

COMMUNICATIONS RELATIVE TO
the Business Department of this paper
should be addressed to D. H. BROWDER,
Lock Drawer No. 2, Raleigh, N. C., and all
Drafts, Checks and Postal Money Orders
should be made payable to his order.

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D. H. BROWDER, - Bus. Manager.

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FRIDAY, MAY 9, 1890.

Equal and Exact Justice to all Men,
of whatever State or Persuasion, Re-
ligious or Political.--Thomas Jefferson.

TWO GREAT GATHERINGS.

There is now in session in the South
two of the greatest religious gatherings
ever held in the Southern States. The
Southern Convention of the Missionary
Baptist church is in session at Fort Worth,
Texas, and the General Conference of
the Methodist Episcopal Church, South,
is in session at St. Louis, Mo. To-
gether these bodies represent about four
million communicants, and their pro-
ceedings are therefore looked forward to
with profound interest by twenty mil-
lions of people. From day to day the
CHRONICLE will give its readers an ac-
count of the proceedings of both bodies,
and later special correspondents will give
their views and impressions from Fort
Worth and St. Louis.

The General Conference.

This body met in St. Louis Wednesday,
and there were about three hundred
delegates in attendance upon roll call.
There are one million and eight hundred
thousand members of the church for
whom the General Conference legislates.
This body meets once every four years
and is composed of an equal number of
lay and ministerial delegates chosen by
the members of each Conference. It
will be in session about four weeks.

The M. E. Church, South, is of com-
paratively recent origin. Early in the
40s, while the Methodists of this country
constituted but one body, BISHOP AN-
DREW, of the Methodist Church, married
a widow who owned a slave. At that
time the anti-slavery agitation was be-
ginning in the North, and no little com-
motion took place among the Methodists
of the Northern States when it was as-
certained that the Church had a Bishop
who was actually a slave-holder, since by
the laws of Georgia BISHOP ANDREW
could not emancipate the slave really
owned by his wife. The Methodists of
the slave-holding States warmly espoused
the cause of BISHOP ANDREW, the Meth-
odists of the North quite as warmly de-
nounced him, and insisted that he should
withdraw from his Episcopal work.
Finding harmony impossible, the two
parties of the church agreed to separate,
and, at the General Conference of 1844,
an equitable division of the property and
of the territory was made, to the church,
South, being assigned as territory all
the slave-holding States save Maryland,
for the Baltimore conference adhered to
the church, North, until after the close
of the civil war. The seceding delegates
constituting the church, South, held a
convention in May, 1845, to prepare for
a general conference of the Methodists
resident in the slave-holding States.

The first General Conference of the M.
E. Church South was held, pursuant to
the arrangements made by the Conven-
tion, in Petersburg, Va., convening on
May 1, 1846. BISHOP ANDREW the occa-
sion of all the trouble, had not at that
time arrived, and BISHOP SOULE, who, at
the General Conference of 1844, sided
with the Southern delegates, had not
given in a formal adherence to the
Church South. The General Conference
was therefore called to order by DR.
WILLIAM WINANS, and JOHN EARLY, af-
terwards Bishop, was called to the chair.
There were present representatives from
fifteen Conferences--the Kentucky, the
Missouri, the Holston, the Tennessee,
the Memphis, the Virginia, North Caro-
lina, South Carolina, Indian Mission, Mis-
sissippi, West Texas, Florida, Alabama,
Arkansas and Georgia Conferences, and
in its minutes the body was designated
as "the General Conference of Delegates
of the Several Annual Conferences of the
Methodist Episcopal Church in the
Slave-holding States." In a few days
BISHOP ANDREW arrived and took part in
the deliberations, and shortly after BISHOP
SOULE also, in a formal communica-
tion, gave in his adherence to the Church
South and took the chair as senior and
presiding Bishop. Proper committees
were appointed and a pastoral address
issued by BISHOP SOULE, detailing at
length the causes of separation, and
making a special plea for the justice of
the movement. Strong temperance res-
olutions were adopted, and as the two
Bishops were unable to render satisfac-
tory service in so large a territory, it
was decided to elect two others, and in
accordance with a resolution adopted,
CAPERS and PAYNE were elected, or-
dained on May 14 and assisted in
conducting the business of the
Conference until its close. Since that
time the growth of the church along all
lines has been steady and gratifying,
and the delegates will review the growth
of the church with pleasurable satisfac-

tion. The work before the Conference
covers so wide a range that we can give
no outline of it to-day. Two Bishops
will probably be elected, and many mat-
ters of importance considered.

The Southern Baptist Convention.

To-day the annual convention will be
called to order in Fort Worth, Texas,
by President HON. JONATHAN HARRI-
NGTON, of the Supreme Court of Alabama.
About seventy delegates will repre-
sent North Carolina and it is ex-
pected that 1200 or 1500 delegates will
be in attendance. The session of the
convention will embrace about one
week. The opening sermon will be
preached by Rev. J. W. CARTER, D. D.,
pastor of the First Baptist Church of
Raleigh. The membership represented
in this convention, which embraces all
the Southern States and Cuba, is two
million, and the work of the delegates
will be mainly confined to receiving re-
ports from the Home and Foreign
Mission Boards, and mapping out work
for the coming year.

The Southern Baptist Convention
was organized in 1844, and prior to that
time all the Baptists in America met
together in one convention. The separa-
tion occurred in Philadelphia and was
caused by the agitation of the
slavery question, and was the case in the
separation in the Presbyterian and Meth-
odist churches. Since the war the growth
of the Baptists in the South has been
truly wonderful. Then they did not
exceed 500,000, now they number about
2,000,000. "The Southern Baptist Con-
vention," says DR. BAILEY, "is the big-
gest body of Baptists on the face of the
earth."

The convention confines its operations
mainly to two objects--Home and For-
eign Missions and has a board for each.
The Foreign Mission Board has its head-
quarters at Richmond, and DR. H. H.
HARRIS is the President, and REV. J. L.
WHITE, of Durham, is the Vice Presi-
dent for North Carolina. During the
past year \$103,000 has been contributed
for Foreign Missions. Of this amount
North Carolina was asked last year to
contribute \$11,000. The amount raised
was \$8,600, and it was the largest con-
tribution ever made by the denomina-
tion in the State. North Carolina has
sent twenty-three missionaries into for-
eign fields, and interest is every year
increasing on the subject and contributions
are also increasing. The work is grow-
ing rapidly in all fields, and the Mis-
sion Board makes a report of great in-
terest and encouragement. In the office
of the Biblical Recorder, in Raleigh,
hangs a picture of the first Baptist Con-
vention organized in China. It is com-
posed of missionaries and natives, and
tells of the great work that has been ac-
complished in the Celestial Empire.
North Carolina Baptists have been fore-
most among missionaries and their
great work is precious to the church.
From Matthew Yates to Herring, and
Bryan, Bostick, Newton and others, they
have sent out brave and courageous men
to carry the gospel to those who sit in
darkness. There are in all 130 mis-
sionary workers, missionaries and native
converts, in the employ of the Foreign Mis-
sion Board.

The work of the Home Mission Board,
with headquarters in Atlanta, is a great
work in the Southern States and is grow-
ing. HON. JNO. D. STEWART is President of
the Board, and REV. A. G. MC MANAWAY,
Vice-President, for North Carolina. It
has charge of the work in the United
States and in Cuba. The amount raised
for this object is \$99,378. Of this
amount, North Carolina contributes
\$9,799.89. This State has devoted most
of its money in this direction to estab-
lishing churches in the bounds of North
Carolina. In the Home Mission work
371 persons are employed, 21 in Cuba,
50 among the negroes, 30 among the
Indians, and the remainder throughout
the South among natives. Seventeen
are thus employed in North Carolina.
The work has been crowned with suc-
cess. Eighty-four churches have been
erected, 267 churches have been orga-
nized, 326 Sunday Schools have been or-
ganized, and 8,098 members have been
received into the church. The work has
been faithful and eminently success. In
Cuba alone twenty young men are pre-
paring for the ministry. The women
have contributed \$10,014.85 for this
work through the agency of their mis-
sion societies. In October, 1892, there
will be a centennial celebration of this
work. "In October, 1792, a little band
of workers gathered at the house of a
Baptist lady and made the first contribu-
tion to missions," and this event the
Board intends to celebrate in a fitting
manner, and to make it an epoch in the
history of the denomination. The Sun-
day school publications of the church
are under the management of this Board
which issues the excellent Kind Words
Series. An effort will be made at the
Fort Worth Convention to secure a con-
solidation of the Baptist publications.
The Baptist Publication Society is anx-
ious to buy out all the Sunday school
publications and make a consolidation,
and that proposition is favorably con-
sidered by some. Our information is
that this will hardly be done. Of the
North Carolina delegation, so we are in-
formed, only two or three favor selling
out and the others strongly urge estab-
lishing a great Southern Baptist Publish-
ing House. REV. DR. C. T. BAILEY tells the
CHRONICLE that it is probable that a
publishing house like that the Metho-
dists have at Nashville, Tenn., will be
established. North Carolina Baptists
prefer to have a publishing house of
their own and control their own publica-
tions. MR. N. B. BROUGHTON will give
the readers of the CHRONICLE fuller ac-
counts of the work of the Convention
by letters from Fort Worth.

A NEEDED REFORM.

GOVERNOR HILL has sent a message to
the New York Legislature suggesting
that they submit an amendment to the
Constitution by which contested elec-
tions will be decided in the courts.
This is a very wise recommendation. It
is very difficult for a member of Con-
gress or the Legislature to strip himself
of partisan bias when passing upon a
contested election case. In fact few men
vote judicially, and usually the majority
seats the contesting members of its own
political party and the minority all vote
for the contestants of their party. This
has been often illustrated and
does not apply solely to the
present Congress though it has
been most flagrant in its violation of all
judicial determining. It has surpassed all
precedent in its reckless unseating of
members of the opposite party, and it is
to their gross unfairness that we owe a
consideration of the question raised by
Gov. HILL.

The Federal Constitution says: "Each
House shall be the judge of the elections,
returns and qualifications of its mem-
bers;" and the same provision is in the
Constitution of most of the States. An
amendment to the Constitution would
refer all contested cases to the courts.
This would compel contests to be decided
upon their merits and relieve legislative
bodies from the standing temptations to
do injustice, and give the people greater
confidence in the determinations reach-
ed. This plan has been proposed be-
fore, and a bill has been introduced in
Congress to make the amendment to the
Federal Constitution. In his argument
for the amendment Gov. HILL draws a
strong and powerful arraignment of the
unfairness and injustice of the present
Republican House. He says:

Experience in this State and in the Na-
tional government during the last twen-
ty-five years has been sufficient to warn
us of the evils which threaten in the
continued reckless exercise of this power.
We appear to be tending in the same
direction in which England was tend-
ing when she decided to surrender the
privilege of three centuries. Contested elec-
tions are apparently decided by might, not
by right. There is no popular confidence
in the judgments of the tribunals which
determine them. Legislative bodies, in
their judicial capacity, are a law unto
themselves; they are governed by no es-
tablished rules of evidence, are influenc-
ed mainly by partisan considerations, and
are controlled largely by the result of
party caucus or conference. Their col-
lection of testimony through committees
is very often virtually ex parte in its na-
ture, its discussion is violently partisan,
and the decisions are not reviewable by
any higher tribunal. Under these con-
ditions, which prevail generally and are
not exaggerated, justice is impossible.
Reliable authority estimates that four-
fifths of all the contested elections to
Congress are decided in favor of the
dominant party. Minority representa-
tives with honest claims to the title of
their office are ousted upon flimsy pre-
texts in order to increase the power of
the majority. No more vivid illustration
of the abuse of a great privilege and
responsibility is needed than the specta-
cle which has been presented at Wash-
ington since the assembling of the Fifty-
first Congress. The certificates of seven-
teen members of the House of Repre-
sentatives are contested, in nearly all in-
stances by candidates of the party which
controlled the House at its organization,
and apparently in pursuance of a prear-
ranged programme of party leaders, for
the purpose of increasing the slender
majority by which the popular branch
of the Federal Legislature is con-
trolled. In most of the cases the
claims of the contestants are artificial
and insignificant upon their face,
yet they seem to serve well the purpose
for which they were made, and one
after another of the minority members
is unseated to make room for a member
of the majority. To facilitate this po-
litical process the majority went even
so far as to prevent for the space of
three months the adoption of any rules
for the guidance of the house, lest by
rights usually thus reserved to the mi-
nority the majority should be checked
in its effort for power. If further illu-
stration is needed that justice has been
banished from the halls of legislation
when disputed elections are under con-
sideration, it is found in the equally
arbitrary conduct of the United States
Senate in seating the two applicants
who, according to all fair precedent,
did not hold proper credentials as Sen-
ators from the new State of Montana.
By no rule of equity could so partisan a
decision be arrived at, and its rendering
shows to what extent political feeling
has warped the judgment of even this
dignified and conservative body.

It will be remembered that when he
apologized for declaring that the Meck-
lenburg Declaration of Independence
was a myth, SAM JONES said that he had
been imposed upon by the Philadelphia
people and when he went there again
he would stamp the feathers off of them,
or, some such expression. The people
of the Quaker city got mad at this, and
the Philadelphia Times says that if SAM
will bring some North Carolina tar
along with him they will show him
something not down on the programme.

The North Carolina Republican Asso-
ciation in Washington, D. C., have en-
dorsed SPEAKER REED as "the grit and
back-bone of the Republican party." That
is all right now but when the Demo-
crats turn them out of office in 1892
and they have to hit the "grit," they
will wish the Speaker had possessed a
little more patriotism and a little less
"back-bone," which is a complimentary
word for partisan obstinacy.

R. W. KNIGHT, Esq., retires as editor
of the Rockingham Rocket, and MR. H.
C. WALL and MR. T. C. GUTHRIE will
conduct the paper. MR. WALL was its
former editor and holds a place among
the ablest, wisest and best furnished ed-
itors in the State. MR. GUTHRIE is a
young man of talent and literary at-
tainments. He was elected Mayor of
Rockingham on Monday, and enjoys the
confidence and regard of his people.

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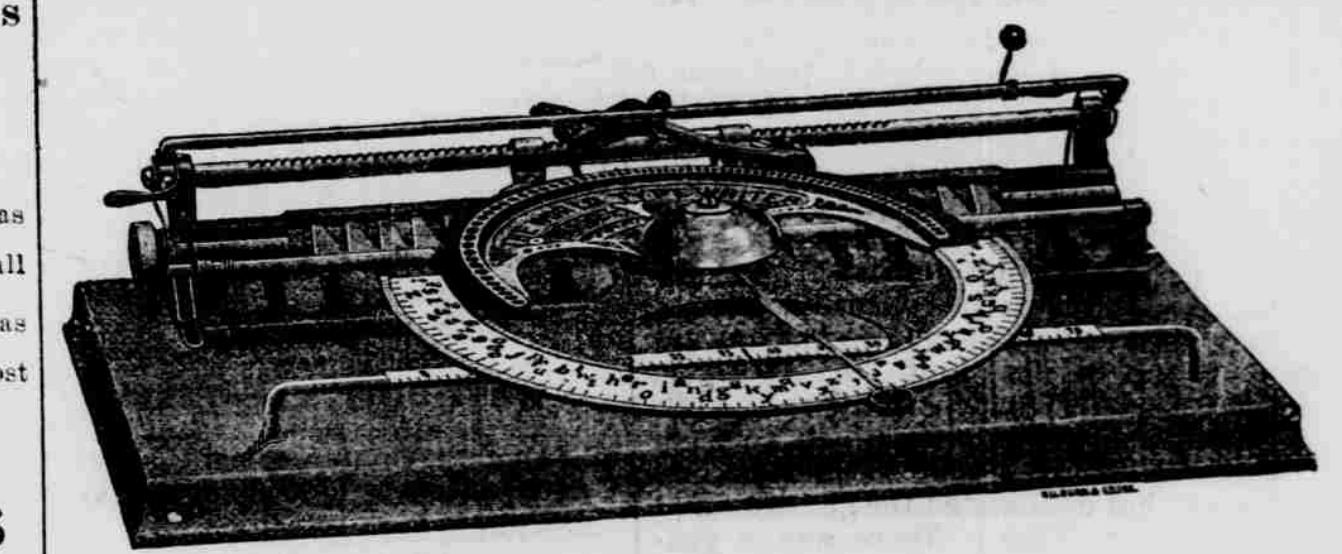
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